

March 21, 2007 - United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan today announced the filing of an eight-count indictment* charging Thomas L. Root, 53, with one count of conspiracy, one count of tax evasion, and seven counts of filing false tax returns related to his execution of a scheme to evade the payment of taxes on more than \$500,000 of taxable income. The indictment alleges that Root, a disbarred attorney, and Francis D. McCracken conspired to hide the payment of commissions to them while they were employed by WTVE, a television station in Reading, Pennsylvania. McCracken was employed as the president of the television station and Root was employed as the station's "special projects director." The indictment also alleges that Root evaded the payment of taxes on tens of thousands of dollars in taxes on income Root earned for legal research and other work he did.

If convicted, the defendant faces up to 31 years imprisonment, up to three years supervised release, and a \$2.25 million fine.

DEFENDANT	AGE [Date of Birth]
Thomas L. Root	53

The Internal Revenue Service investigated the case. The case has been assigned for prosecution to Assistant United States Attorney Richard J. Zack. For copies of the indictment and this release, please go to www.usao-edpa.gov.

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^{*}An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.